

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 27-28, 31-32, 35-36 and 38-39 are "objected to". Therefore, new claims 40-47 are added and correspond, respectively, to "object to" claims 27-28, 31-32, 35-36 and 38-39 written in independent form to be allowable.

New claims 48-53 are also added. Support for the new claims is found, for example, in FIG. 6, and the disclosure on page 16, line 30, through page 18, line 15, of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 10 and 24-53 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC 102 AND 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER CHIARONI

Chiaroni discloses an interferometer 7 which modulates light from a laser source 8 with a modulating signal B. See, for example, FIG. 2 of Chiaroni. Currents I1 and I2 are injected into amplifiers OA1 and OA2 of interferometer 7. Chiaroni controls these currents I1 and I2. See, for example, column 2, lines 36-50, and column 5, lines 1-12, of Chiaroni.

Therefore, generally, internal components of interferometer 7 are controlled by controlling currents I1 and I2.

By comparison, in the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 26, an attenuator attenuates intensity of input light **before the input light is received by the optical modulator**. Please note that claim 26 is amended to clarify this operation. See, for example, FIG. 6 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that Chiaroni does not disclose or suggest such operation.

Moreover, by comparison to Chiaroni, in the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 30, an attenuator is **positioned downstream of the optical modulator**. Please note that claim 30 is amended to clarify this operation. See, for example, the dotted box in FIG. 6 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that Chiaroni does not disclose or suggest such operation.

Although the above arguments are directed to claims 26 and 30, it is respectfully submitted that the arguments would be helpful in understanding differences in other claims over Chiaroni.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

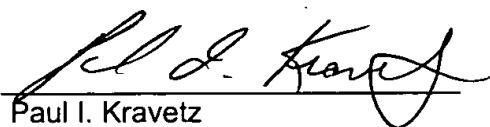
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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